

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicant basically:

1. Amends independent claim 1 to include therein the limitations of allowable dependent claim 3.
2. Amends independent claim 14 to include therein the limitations of dependent claim 15.
3. Amends independent claim 20 to include therein the limitations of allowable dependent claim 21.
4. Amends dependent claims 4 – 5, 9, 18 – 19, and 22 – 23 for non-narrowing formality reasons.
5. Cancels dependent claims 3, 15, and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer.
6. Adds new claim 24.
7. Respectfully traverses all prior art rejections.

B. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 4, 9, 14-15, 18-20 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication 2004/0209615 to Lamb et al in view of U.S. Publication 2002/0058504 to Stanforth. Claims 5 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication 2004/0209615 to Lamb et al in view of U.S. Publication 2002/0058504 to Stanforth, further in view of U.S. Publication 2004/0208151 to Haverinen et al. All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

C. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

In view of the amendments of independent claims 1 and 20 to include therein the allowable limitations of dependent claims 3 and 21, respectively, both independent claims 1 and 20 and claims dependent thereon are deemed allowable.

Applicants submit that independent claim 14, now amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 15, is also allowable. Applicants believe that the limitations of dependent claim 15 added to independent claim 14 are of similar scope or analogous to allowable dependent claims 3 and 21 and hence amended independent claim 14 should also be allowable. Further, Applicants incorporate by reference their previous patentability remarks concerning patentability of independent claim 14 and claims dependent thereon.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for the entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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